

Intensive family preservation services (Homebuilders(c))

Benefit-cost estimates updated December 2015. Literature review updated April 2012.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical documentation](#).

Program Description: Intensive Family Preservation Services are short-term, home-based crisis intervention services that emphasize placement prevention. The original program, Homebuilders®, was developed in 1974 in Federal Way, Washington. The program emphasizes contact with the family within 24 hours of the crisis, staff accessibility round the clock, small caseload sizes, service duration of four to six weeks, and provision of intensive, concrete services and counseling. These programs are intended to prevent removal of a child from his or her biological home (or to promote his or her return to that home) by improving family functioning. For this analysis, we have presented the effects of all such programs together.

Benefit-Cost Summary

Program benefits		Summary statistics	
Participants	\$4,533	Benefit to cost ratio	\$6.23
Taxpayers	\$12,708	Benefits minus costs	\$17,911
Other (1)	\$403	Probability of a positive net present value	99 %
Other (2)	\$3,694		
Total	\$21,339		
Costs	(\$3,428)		
Benefits minus cost	\$17,911		

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2014). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in our [technical documentation](#).

Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of benefits	Benefits to				
	Participants	Taxpayers	Other (1)	Other (2)	Total benefits
From primary participant					
Crime	\$0	\$124	\$283	\$62	\$469
Child abuse and neglect	\$87	\$102	\$0	\$51	\$240
Out-of-home placement	\$0	\$10,369	\$0	\$5,158	\$15,527
K-12 grade repetition	\$0	\$18	\$0	\$9	\$27
K-12 special education	\$0	\$116	\$0	\$58	\$174
Property loss (alcohol abuse/dependence)	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$0	\$1
Health care (PTSD)	\$31	\$96	\$119	\$48	\$294
Labor market earnings (child abuse & neglect)	\$4,414	\$1,883	\$0	\$14	\$6,312
Adjustment for deadweight cost of program	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,705)	(\$1,705)
Totals	\$4,533	\$12,708	\$403	\$3,694	\$21,339

We created the two "other" categories to report results that do not fit neatly in the "participant" or "taxpayer" perspectives. In the "Other (1)" category we include the benefits of reductions in crime victimization, the economic spillover benefits of improvement in human capital outcomes, and the benefits from private or employer-paid health insurance. In the "Other (2)" category we include estimates of the net changes in the value of a statistical life and net changes in the deadweight costs of taxation.

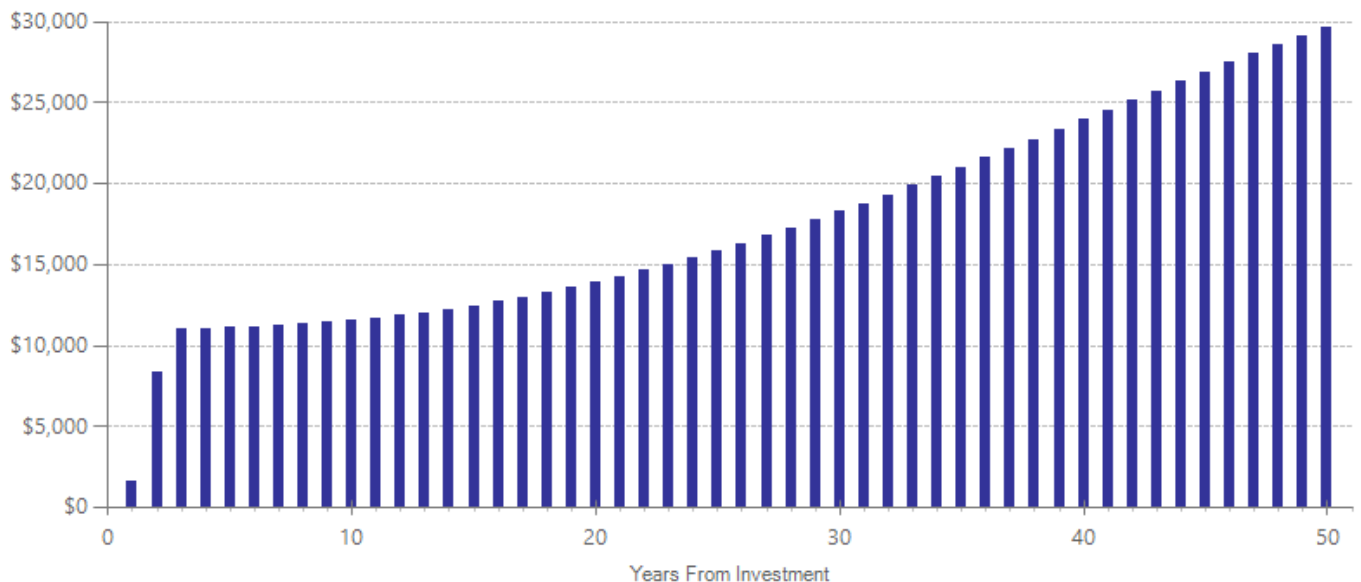
Detailed Cost Estimates

	Annual cost	Program duration	Year dollars	Summary statistics	
Program costs	\$3,547	1	2008	Present value of net program costs (in 2014 dollars)	(\$3,428)
Comparison costs	\$392	1	2008	Uncertainty (+ or - %)	10 %

Program costs per family provided by DSHS Children's Administration, 2008. The Institute adjusted for multiple children per family. Comparison group costs calculated based on social worker time.

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in our [technical documentation](#).

Cumulative Net Cash Flows Over Time (Non-Discounted Dollars)



Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	Primary or secondary participant	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)		Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit-cost analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
				ES	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Child abuse and neglect	Primary	2	180	-0.231	0.044	-0.231	0.114	11	-0.231	0.114	17
Out-of-home placement	Primary	4	337	-0.553	0.001	-0.553	0.148	11	-0.553	0.148	17

Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

Blythe, B., & Jayaratne, S. (2002). *Michigan families first effectiveness study*. Retrieved December 5, 2003, from <http://www.michigan.gov/printerFriendly/0,1687,7-124--21887--,00.html>

Feldman, L.H. (1991). *Assessing the effectiveness of family preservation services in New Jersey within an ecological context*. Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services; Bureau of Research, Evaluation, and Quality Assurance.

Fraser, M.W., Walton, E., Lewis, R.E., Pecora, P.J., & Walton, W.K. (1996). An experiment in family reunification: Correlates of outcomes at one-year follow-up. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 18(4-5), 335-361.

Mitchell, C., Tovar, P., & Knitzer, J. (1989). *The Bronx Homebuilders program: An evaluation of the first 45 families*. New York: Bank Street College of Education.

Walton, E. (1998). In-home family-focused reunification: A six-year follow-up of a successful experiment. *Social Work Research*, 22(4), 205-214.

For further information, contact:
(360) 586-2677, institute@wsipp.wa.gov

Printed on 03-05-2016



Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors—representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities—governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.